



Goal, Objectives, and Responsibilities

Competency-based Education (CBE): Pathways to College, Career, and Life Ready Graduates

The Iowa CBE Collaborative

Background Information

In 2012 the Iowa legislature approved competency-based education (CBE) in Senate File 2284. That legislation set up a task force to investigate CBE. The Preliminary Report of that task force recommended the legislature direct the Iowa Department of Education to “Identify up to 10 districts that would serve as models across the state and develop support for these districts to help them serve as Iowa-based models.” In 2013 the legislature passed House File 215, which included that direction to the department as well as a fund of \$100,000 to be used as grants to participant districts/schools.

To facilitate the work, the Iowa CBE Collaborative will utilize a professional learning community structure to leverage both face-to-face and technology-supported collaboration opportunities. Each month, leadership teams from each participating district will attend collaborative meetings to work together on the design and discuss implementation. In addition, throughout the month, collaborative participants will share progress, discuss challenges, and receive ongoing support for implementation. Annually, the collaborative will share their learning and progress through articles, webinars, blogs, and/or conferences open to the state.

Goal of the Iowa CBE Collaborative

The Iowa CBE Collaborative will develop a framework for transition from a traditional educational system to a competency-based system.

Objectives of the Iowa CBE Collaborative

The collaborative will develop a statewide network of CBE districts to study, take action, monitor results, adjust actions, and learn together in order to describe key structures, policies, and best practices for transitioning from a traditional educational system to a competency-based system that increases the number of students who meet college and career ready indicators at all grades. The collaborative will:

- Investigate, develop, and implement competency-based educational pathways for students,
- Establish demonstration sites among the participant schools,
- Define college and career readiness consistent with deeper learning,
- Identify college and career ready indicators,
- Develop model competencies and performance assessments,
- Identify appropriate assessments (formative and summative) and tools to monitor learning,
- Identify professional development needs for educators to make this transformation in their districts,
- Developing models for community and parent engagement,
- Facilitate seamless transitions within the PK-12 system,
- Facilitate seamless pathways to college and career,
- Create tools and processes to document and share results, challenges, and lessons learned from implementation, and
- Describe the learning environment needed to accomplish these goals for students.

Initial Roles and Responsibilities:

Iowa CBE Collaborative districts are required to:

- Operate within the scope of the [Iowa Department of Education Guidelines for PK-12 Competency-based Pathways](#) and the parameters established within this overview document.
- Commit to participation as a district
 - Participation from all levels of leadership, and

- Willingness to implement district-wide over time.
- Select/identify a leadership team of up to ten (10) people to participate in the Iowa CBE Collaborative and guide the work in the district. That team must include:
 - Superintendent and/or Curriculum Director,
 - Principal of each building in which CBE is being implemented through the collaborative, and
 - Teachers implementing CBE through the collaborative.
 - Optional: school counselor, assessment specialist, assistant principal, or others, as appropriate based on level of involvement of the work.
- Participate fully in all collaborative activities, as described above (full leadership team).
- Attend all collaborative meetings.
- Gather and report implementation data as requested.
- Gather and report student learning data as requested.
- Adhere to implementation practices and non-negotiables with fidelity.
- Share learning (within district, within the collaborative, and across the state).
- Commit to create collaborative inquiry structures to support implementation.
- Allocate resources to support implementation (Applicant districts must be prepared to assume responsibility for these expenses should grant funds be exhausted before the end of their participation in the collaborative.)
- Document grant fund and submit all grant fund expenditures as required.
- Develop community partnerships.

Institutes of Higher Education and Area Education Agencies are invited to:

- Provide coaching and support to network staff,
- Assist in the development of professional development for districts/schools,
- Participate in all collaborative activities,
- Help the Iowa Department of Education facilitate collaborative learning, and
- Other roles as appropriate.

Iowa Department of Education will:

- Develop selection process and select districts to participate,
- Distribute funding from legislation to selected districts,
- Facilitate a collaborative learning/inquiry process for the collaborative,
- Facilitate and participate in all activities,
- Make policy requests to State Board and legislature as needed,
- Monitor and ensure accountability and fidelity of implementation,
- Provide support for collaborative districts,
- Provide pressure and support for actions and outcomes, and
- Connect collaborative schools to work on a national level.

Dates:

Nov. 19, Dec. 18, Jan. 22, Feb. 18, Mar. 12, April 15, May 14, June 23-24 (DE/IA-ASCD conference)

Districts:

Cedar Rapids, Collins-Maxwell, East Union, Howard-Winneshiek, Marshalltown, Mason City, Muscatine, Nevada, Spirit Lake, Van Meter

Postsecondary Partners:

Drake, Hawkeye, Iowa State, Kirkwood, Simpson, University of Iowa, University of Northern Iowa (College administrators, Educational Administration, Education, English, Natural Resources, Ecology, and Management)